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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 000481

SIPDIS

WHA/CAR FOR JROSHOLT
EUR FOR SSHIRATORI AND WTOMLYANOVICH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/02/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UN](#) [UNGA](#) [KV](#) [NS](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED KOSOVO ICJ RESOLUTION AT UNGA

REF: A. STATE 105796
[B](#). PARAMARIBO 00382
[C](#). STATE 91908

Classified By: Pol-Econ Chief Geneve Menscher for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#). (C) Post was not able to get a meeting with any government official in the International Organizations Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in advance of the vote. Post noted that Suriname supported Serbia's resolution to refer the question on the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence to the International Court of Justice.

[2](#). (C) During an October 16 meeting with Juliette Redman, acting Head of the International Organizations Division, Redman told EconOff that in making decisions on UN votes, Suriname decides on a case-by-case basis on issues that impact Suriname or are of strong interest to Suriname. Otherwise, Suriname continues to defer to the CARICOM position or the G-77 position when voting. Redman was not able to tell EconOff how Suriname had reached its decision in this case and said she would look into it.

[3](#). (C) During a November 18 meeting with Chantal Elsenhout, acting Head of the International Organizations Division on that date and newly returned from the UNGA in New York, EconOff questioned Elsenhout as to the rationale for Suriname's support for Serbia's resolution. Elsenhout responded that she could not confirm whether Suriname had made its decision as a bloc vote. When EconOff noted the importance that the court's opinion might have on other issues (such as secession, self determination, and other matters), Elsenhout responded that the court's advisory opinion would not be binding. She also noted that the process would buy the Government of Suriname extra time to review Kosovo's declaration of independence and make a decision on whether or not it would recognize Kosovo.
BELL